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# Reagan Proposes More Budget Shifts in 1986

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~~EXCERPTED~~

President Reagan today will propose a military budget of \$277.5 billion for fiscal 1986, about 13 percent more than the Defense Department will spend this year.

The budget would push the Reagan administration's military buildup over the \$1 trillion mark, continuing a series of steady increases that began four years ago. Congress has approved more than 96 percent of the administration's defense-budget requests, but the new proposal is likely to provoke an acrimonious debate on Capitol Hill.

Critics charge that the increase is insupportable in the face of mounting budget deficits and proposed domestic-spending cuts, but Reagan, who Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger said spent "hours" studying the Pentagon budget, has said this level of spending is essential for national security.

The budget follows a pattern of the past four years by seeking large increases in weapons procurement, where spending would rise 19 percent, and smaller growth in personnel and in operations and maintenance, which would increase 7 percent. Critics have accused the administration of consistently underfunding those "readiness" accounts, although procurement includes ammunition and spare parts that contribute to readiness.

Much of the weapons procurement money would go toward strategic nuclear programs, the centerpiece of the administration's military buildup. Reagan has asked for \$4 billion for 48 MX missiles, \$6.2 billion for 48 B1 bombers and \$4.7 billion for a Trident submarine and Trident missiles.

Weinberger criticized the "naive talk of unilaterally canceling the MX," which he said is needed for leverage in arms negotiations.

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Weinberger said the fiscal 1986 budget request is \$36 billion less than he originally planned to seek. That reduction, accepted by the president in two stages last year, meant that the services will not be able to buy 72 fighter jets, four support ships and hundreds of missiles and trucks that they had wanted.

Even with those reductions, however, the Pentagon managed to increase the number of planes and ships it plans to buy in many categories. For example, under the Reagan request, the Marines would buy 46 AV8B Harrier jump jets, up from this year's 32. The Navy would buy 12 EA6B Prowlers, up from six. The Air Force would buy 180 F16s, up from 150; 48 F15s, up from 42; eight U2 spy planes, up from four, and 16 C5 giant cargo planes, up from eight.

Procurement quantities would hold steady for the Army's Apache helicopter, at 144, and the Navy and Marine F18 fighter jet, at 84. Like last year, the Navy would buy three Aegis cruisers, for a little less than \$1 billion each, and four nuclear attack submarines, at \$700 million apiece.